

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 21 is amended and new claims 24-34 are added.

In section 2 on pages 2-5, the Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over EP 0,344,901 A2 to Armstrong et al. (hereinafter "Armstrong"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action, referring to Armstrong as "Gordon", asserts that a notch 60, a finger 130, a take-up spool 10 and a direction A of Armstrong correspond to the engaging portion, the engaging member, the ribbon take up spool and the first direction of the rejected claims, respectively. However, as described in column 5, line 49 to column 6, line 25 of Armstrong, the one way clutch mechanism 40 is for restricting a rotation direction of the spool 10 with respect to the engaging disc 38 only in direction A of Fig. 1.

In addition, as described in column 9, line 27 to column 11, line 28 of Armstrong, when the spool 10 is rotated in direction B, the finger 130 is disengaged from the notch 60 when an external force is applied from a lock release mechanism 144.

Accordingly, the recited subject matter in the rejected claims that "the take-up spool is allowed to rotate in the first direction as the engaging member slips on the second wall" is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Armstrong.

Further regarding the rejection to claim 21, the subject matter of claim 4 is incorporated to claim 21 by Amendment. Thus, claim 21 is distinguished from Armstrong for the previously stated reasons.

Further regarding the rejection to claim 22, the structure set forth in claim 22 is different from the structure of Armstrong. Because the notch 60 is formed on the engaging disc 38 which is connected to the spool 10 via an one-way coupling 40, the feature recited in

claim 22 that "the engaging portion is a slit formed through a cylindrical wall of the take-up spool" is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Armstrong.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 3 of Armstrong, each wall of the notch 60 is formed vertically to the outer surface of the engagement disc 38. Therefore, each wall of notch 60 does not face outside the take-up spool 10.

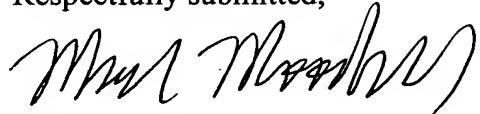
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-8, 21 and 22 as being anticipated by Armstrong be withdrawn.

Claims 24-34 correspond to claims 10-20, and are allowable for the same reasons that claims 10-20 are indicated as being allowable in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-34 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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